County

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

(~~Va~~ (Pocahontas)
Ch. 6)

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject: References to the "Wilderness" in Francis Asbury's Journal

Date: Jan. 20 1941

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Date Research Taken: Jan. 20 - 1941.

Typist: H. M. H.

Date Typed: Jan. 22, 1941

Source: Rev. Francis Asbury's Journal Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Date Filed: Jan 21, 1941

REV. FRANCIS ASBURY'S JOURNAL

Monday 7, (July 1788). Our troubles began; it being the day we set out for Clarksburg. Thirty miles brought us to W_____'s on the Great Levels (Vol. 2 P. 36)

Tuesday 8, (July 1788) Reached M'Neal's on the Little Levels, where almost the whole settlement came together, with whom I found freedom on Matt. XI 28-30. Our brother Pheobus had to answer questions propounded to him until evening. Vol. 2

Sat. 17 (July 1790) Some very pointed things were delivered relative to parents and children, from Geni XVIII 19. After being in public exercises from ten til two O' clock, we rode in the afternoon twenty miles to the little levels of Greenbrier. On my way I premeditated the sending of a preacher to a newly-settled place in the Kenhaway County Vol. 2 P. 91.

Sunday 18 (July 1790) We had a warm sermon at M'Neal's at which many were highly offended; but I trust their false peace is broken. There are many bears in this part of the country; not long since, a child in this neighborhood was killed by one. Vol. 2 P. 91.

Friday 27, (May 1796) I felt myself very heavy, my mind unprepared for the congregation at Gilboa meeting house, and could not preach with any satisfaction. After meeting the society, I came away much clouded. We came off from brother C____'s about four O' clock, aiming at the Little Levels; but darkness came on, and we had to climb and blunder over the point of a mountain, in descending which my feet were so squeezed that the blood was ready to gush out of the pores; I could hardly help weeping out my sorrow; at length we came to brother H____'s where the kindness of the family was a cordial, and we want to rest about tenO'clock and all was well. Vol. 2 Page 303.

Sunday 29, (May 1796) I was very warm in body, and in mind at M'Neal's. In the afternoon (contrary to my sentiment and practice on the Lords day) we took our departure, purposing to reach Morgantown on Wednesday evening, in order to attend an appointment made for me on Thursday, the second of June.

We reached my old friend Drinnon's who received us gladly, and entertained us kindly. Next day (Monday) we opened our campaign through the mountains, following a path I had though never to travel again. Frequently we were in danger of being plucked off our horses by the boughs of the trees under which we had to ride. About seven O' clock after crossing six mountains and many rocky creeks and fords of Elk and Monongahela (Tygarts Valley) Rivers, we made the Valley of Distress, called by the natives Tyger's Valley Vol. 2 Page 303-304 Friday 26 (May 1792) O! what a solitary country this is! We have now 120 miles before us, fifty of which is a wilderness. There is a guard at two houses on our route; (through fear of Indians) but I do not fear. Nature is spent with labor; I would not live always; hail! happy death; nothing but holiness, perfect love, and then glory for me! Vol. 2, P. 152.

Source Asburys Journal